

[J. H. Deam]

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About 400 words. BIOGRAPHIES.

J. H. DEAM.

Bowie County, Texas, was the birthplace of J. H. Deam, now of Clayton, New Mexico. His father, A. D. Deam, was born in Bavaria, and his mother in Alsace-Lorraine. This couple came to the United States, marrying later in Indiana. From Indiana the young immigrants went by wagon and ox-team by [Kentucky?], later moving by the same means of conveyance to Bowie County, Texas.

The first night the A. D. Deams camped on Texas soil, J. H. Deam, the subject of this sketch, was born to them in the big covered wagon.

The family located in Bowie County, where the father, A. D. Deam worked as a wagon maker. Here J. H. Deam grew up, and got his schooling,—not as much as he should have got, and would have got, he says, if he had realized how useful it would have been to him later.

During his residence in Texas, J. H. Deam served a three years' apprenticeship in the saddle making business under L. B. Howell, at [Lancaster?], Texas. Since then he has since make saddle making his trade, dealing also in harness. In 1889 he made the first saddle that was ever make in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Then, after sever months spent in different parts of Oklahoma, in 1896 Mr. Deam came to Union County, where he bought the relinquishment to a homestead a few miles out of Clayton, New Mexico.

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At the end of three years spent in Union County, Mr. Deam returned to Bowie County on important business—which was his marriage to Miss Rebecca Jane Bailey, of Bowie County. This occurred on October 9th, 1899.

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Then, with his bride, he returned to Union County, New Mexico, which has been his home the past forty years. Two children were born to them—a little girl, who died at the age of three, and a son, Arthur A'Deam, now of Stinett, Texas.

After working for others for awhile, Mr. Deam went into business for himself in Clayton in 1928—first in Azar building, but after one or two years later moves, finally into his present location the second door west of First Street, on the South side of the Main Street of Clayton. Here we find him making saddles and selling harness, altho" there is not much demand for the latter in this age of tractors.

Mr. Deam remembers with a smile the old sidesaddle days. At present his saddles are of the Western Stock Saddle type—which, with the hand decrating he does on them, are real works of art. Most of his trade is from out of the state, his prices ranging from \$55.00 to \$100.00 each. He states that the saddle business is better right at the present time than he ever knew it to be in peace times.

Having been for years a dealer in harness, he has made himself familiar with the manufacturing and of the harness business, thro" frequent visits to the harness factories. But, he states, only twice in his experience has he seen horse collars made, as the fire hazard is so great in connection with this part of the work, on account of the material used for stuffing. This necessitates the [collassbbeing?] make in a part of the factory entirely separate and apart from the rest of the work.

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Mr. Deam has watched Clayton grow from a small village of two or three hundred people, to its present size, with a population of about 2500 He states that only about two American women now remain in Clayton who were here when he came.